Amendments to the Claims

1. (withdrawn) A polyester bottle preform comprised of a polyester polymer containing an effective amount of barium sulfate as a friction-reducing additive.

2. (withdrawn) The bottle preform of claim 1, wherein said polyester polymer is selected from polyethylene terephthalate and modified polyethylene terephthalate.

3. (withdrawn) The bottle preform of claim 1, wherein said polymer contains up to about 0.1 wt. % barium sulfate having an average particle size of from about 0.1 to about 2.0 microns.

4. (withdrawn) The bottle preform of claim 1, wherein said polymer contains from about 0.005 to about 0.05 wt. % barium sulfate.

5. (withdrawn) The bottle preform of claim 1, wherein said barium sulfate has an average particle size of from about 0.2 to about 1.0 micron.

6. (withdrawn) The bottle preform of claim 1, sized for the manufacture of a two-liter bottle.

7. (currently amended) A polyester bottle comprised of a polyester polymer containing ~~an effective amount~~ up to 0.1% wt. of barium sulfate having an average particle size of from about 0.1 to about 2.0 microns as a friction reducing additive, ~~whereby the weight percentage and particle size of barium sulfate are selected to provide a bottle~~ said bottle being

characterized by an absence of visible haze.

8. (original) The bottle of claim 7, wherein said polyester polymer is selected from polyethylene terephthalate and modified polyethylene terephthalate.

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The bottle of claim 7, wherein said polymer contains from about 0.005 to about 0.05 wt. % barium sulfate.

11. (original) The bottle of claim 7, wherein said barium sulfate has an average particle size of from about 0.2 to about 1.0 micron.

12. (previously amended) The bottle of claim 7, wherein said polymer contains about 0.01 wt. % barium sulfate having an average particle size of about 0.5 microns.

13. (original) The bottle of claim 7, wherein said bottle is a two-liter beverage container.

14. (withdrawn) A method for making polyester bottles exhibiting reduced bottle-to-bottle friction and an absence of visible haze comprising:

a) forming a polyester polymer containing an effective amount of barium sulfate as a friction reducing additive; and

b) forming a bottle from said polymer.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein said polyester polymer is selected from polyethylene terephthalate and modified polyethylene terephthalate.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein said polymer contains up to about 0.1 wt. % barium sulfate having an average particle size of from about 0.1 to about 2.0 microns.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein said polymer contains from about

0.005 to about 0.05 wt. % barium sulfate.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein said barium sulfate has an average particle size of from about 0.2 to about 1.0 micron.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, further including the step of forming a preform from said polymer, said bottle being formed by stretch blow molding of said preform.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein said bottle is a two-liter beverage container.

21. (currently amended) A polyester bottle comprised of a polyester polymer containing from about 0.005 to about 0.05 wt. % of barium sulfate having an average particle size of from about 0.1 to about 2.0 microns as a friction reducing additive, ~~whereby the weight percentage and particle size of barium sulfate are selected to provide a~~ said bottle being characterized by an absence of visible haze ~~and reduced bottle-to-bottle friction~~.

22. (previously presented) The bottle of claim 21, wherein said polyester polymer is selected from polyethylene terephthalate and modified polyethylene terephthalate.

23. (previously presented) The bottle of claim 21, wherein said barium sulfate has an average particle size of from about 0.2 to about 1.0 micron.

24. (previously presented) The bottle of claim 21, wherein said bottle is a two-liter beverage container.

25. (previously presented) The bottle of claim 21, wherein said bottle has a wall thickness of from about 0.12 mm to about 0.65 mm.

26. (currently amended) A polyester bottle having a wall thickness of from about 0.12 mm to about 0.65 mm comprised of a polyester polymer containing from about 0.005 to

about 0.05 wt. % barium sulfate having an average particle size of from about ~~0.1~~ 0.2 to about ~~2.0 microns~~ 1.0 micron as a friction reducing additive, ~~whereby the weight percentage and particle size of barium sulfate are selected to provide a~~ said bottle being characterized by an absence of visible haze ~~and reduced bottle-to-bottle friction~~.

27. (previously presented) The bottle of claim 26, wherein said polyester polymer is selected from polyethylene terephthalate and modified polyethylene terephthalate.

28. (previously presented) The bottle of claim 26, wherein said polymer contains about 0.01 wt. % barium sulfate having an average particle size of about 0.5 micron.

29. (previously presented) The bottle of claim 26, wherein said bottle is a two-liter beverage container.

30. (previously presented) The bottle of claim 26, wherein said bottle has a wall thickness of from about 0.2 mm to about 0.45 mm.